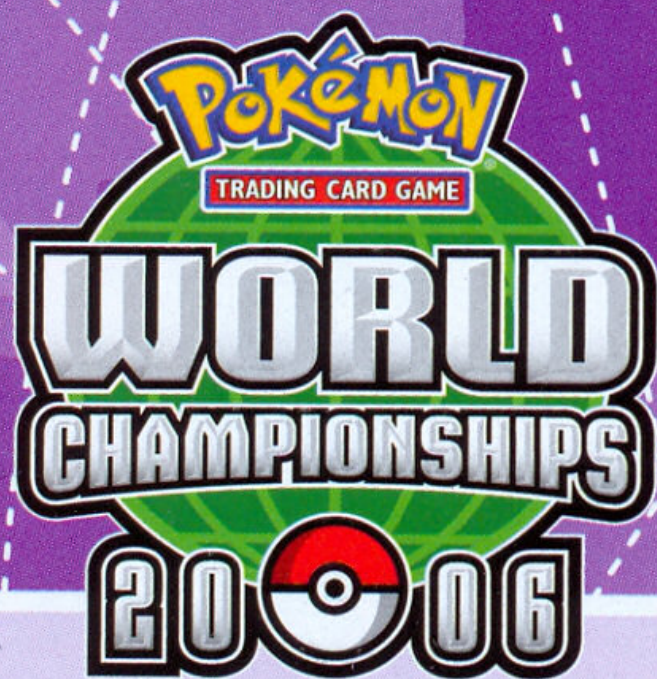


POKÉMON
TRADING CARD GAME
**WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS**
2006

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.

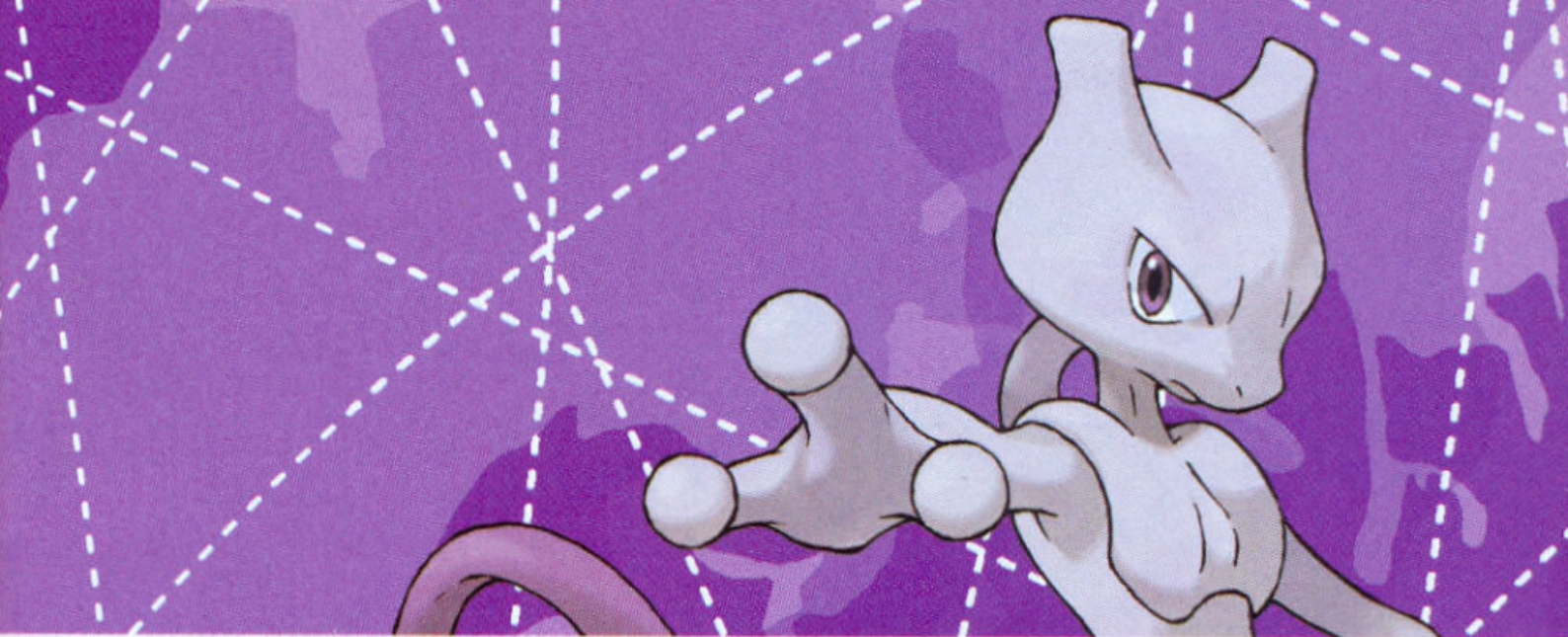


A WORLD OF CHAMPIONS

The United States. Japan. Finland. This year's Champions came from all over the world.

This year's participants came from everywhere—from more than 30 countries, in all—to battle for the coveted title of 2006 **Pokémon** TCG World Champion in Anaheim, California, U.S.A. And the battle was fierce and grand. Over 500 players competed, some of them lucky and skilled enough to make it into the Main Event by doing well in a notably long Last Chance Qualifier the night before (that ran into the morning of the Championships!).





By the end of day two, that field had been trimmed down to 32 players in each of three groups.

From 32 to 16... to 8... and finally down to the top 4 competitors from each age group. Two players from the Netherlands placed in the final four (Arnoud Van Bemmelen, 10 and under, and David Booij, 11–14), the United Kingdom (Fares Sekkoum, 10 and under) was well represented, Japan fielded two excellent players (Hiroki Yano, 10 and under, and Yuta Komatsuda, 15 and up), and six competitors from the United States (Spencer Duncan, 10 and under; Austin Reed and Tad Wheeler, 11–14; Jimmy Ballard and Jason Klaczynski, 15 and up) battled into the final four, including last year's World Champion Jeremy Maron (15 and up).

The final games were tense and hard fought—Hiroki Yano played with a quiet, determined focus that captivated the attention of many onlookers, Miska Saari was cheered to victory by a large, exuberant family in the stands, and Jason Klaczynski was a gracious and grateful victor as he stepped into the spotlight. All three players, as well as those placing second and third, shared the stage during the closing ceremonies.

In the end, the 2006 **Pokémon** TCG World Championships handed out over \$100,000 in scholarships, mountains of fantastic prizes, and lots of memories to players from all over the globe. And the journey to the next World Championships begins now as players prepare for August 2007 in Kona, Hawaii!



COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING:



ARGENTINA



AUSTRALIA



AUSTRIA



BELGIUM



BRAZIL



CANADA



CHILE



CROATIA



**CZECH
REPUBLIC**



DENMARK



ECUADOR



FINLAND



FRANCE



GERMANY



GREECE





ISRAEL



ITALY



JAPAN



LUXEMBOURG



MALAYSIA



MALTA



MEXICO



NETHERLANDS



NORWAY



PORTUGAL



SLOVENIA



SWEDEN



SWITZERLAND



UNITED KINGDOM



UNITED STATES





THE FINAL PATH TO GREATNESS

It was a long, challenging, hard-fought road to the 2006 **Pokémon** TCG World

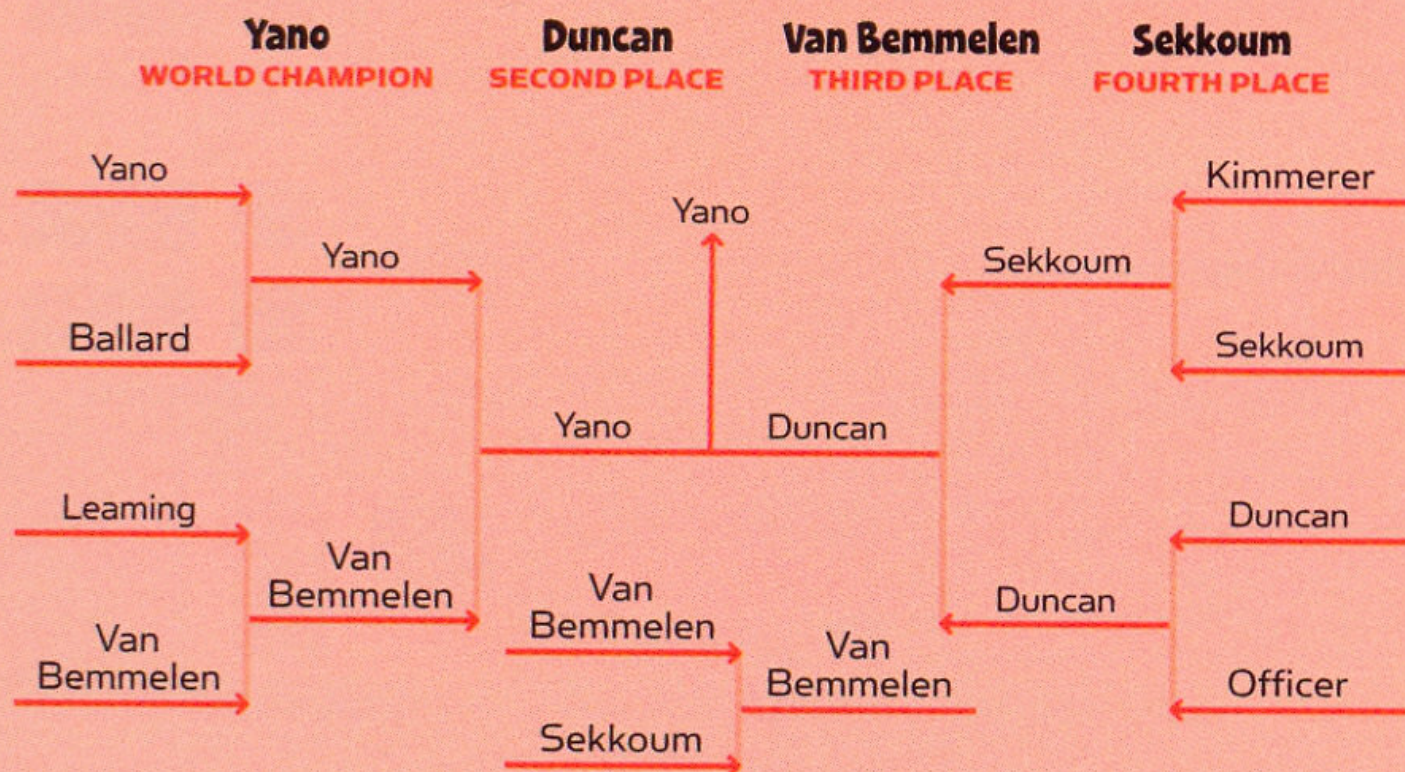
Championships for the select few players who qualified. Of the more than 400 who earned the right to compete at the game's highest level, only a handful advanced to the finals.

On Sunday, August 20, the top 32 players in each age group battled until one great player emerged victorious

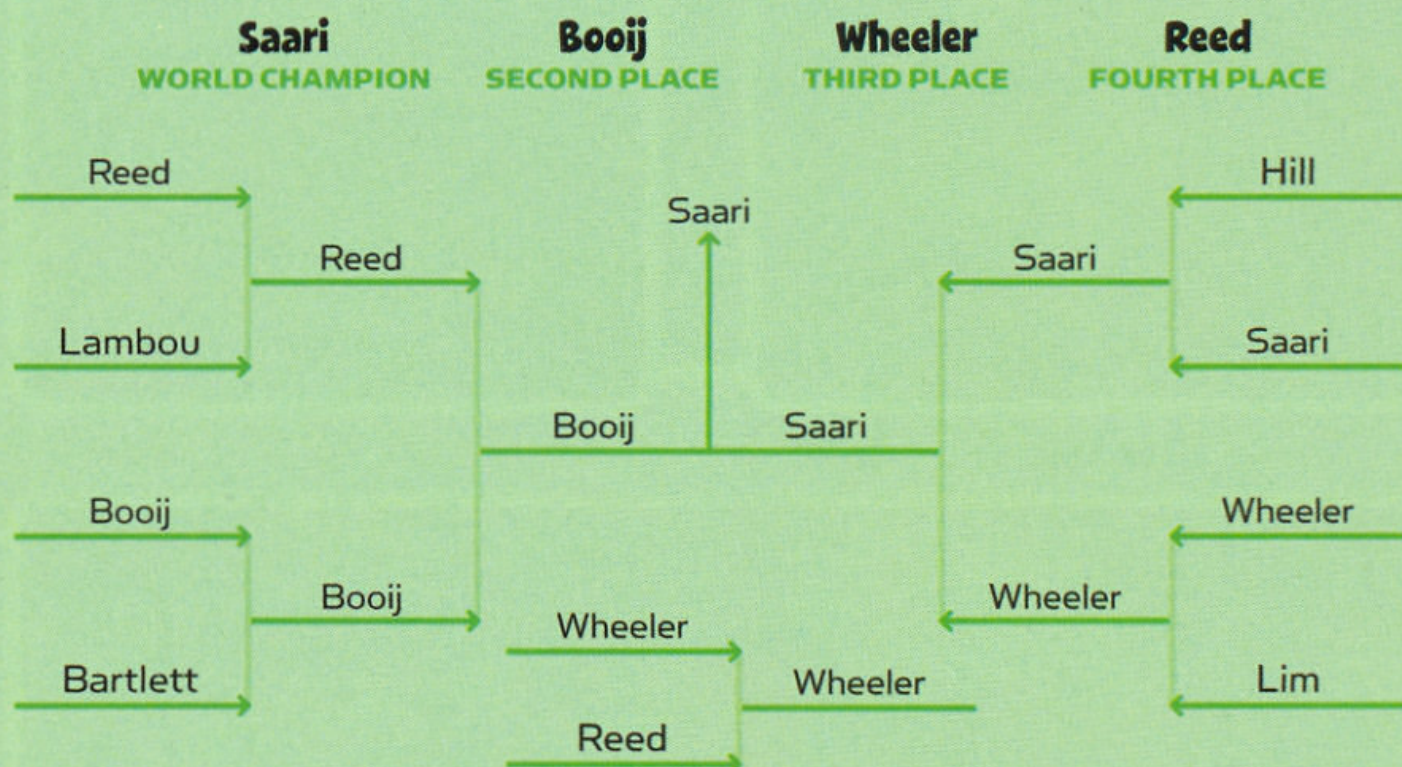
in each. Here you can follow the exciting results to the finals for the top 16 players!

In each of the three age group brackets are two sets of pairings (four players on the far left and four on the far right) that led to the climactic Championship match (in the middle of each bracket). Below each bracket is the runner-up pairing for the third-place trophy.

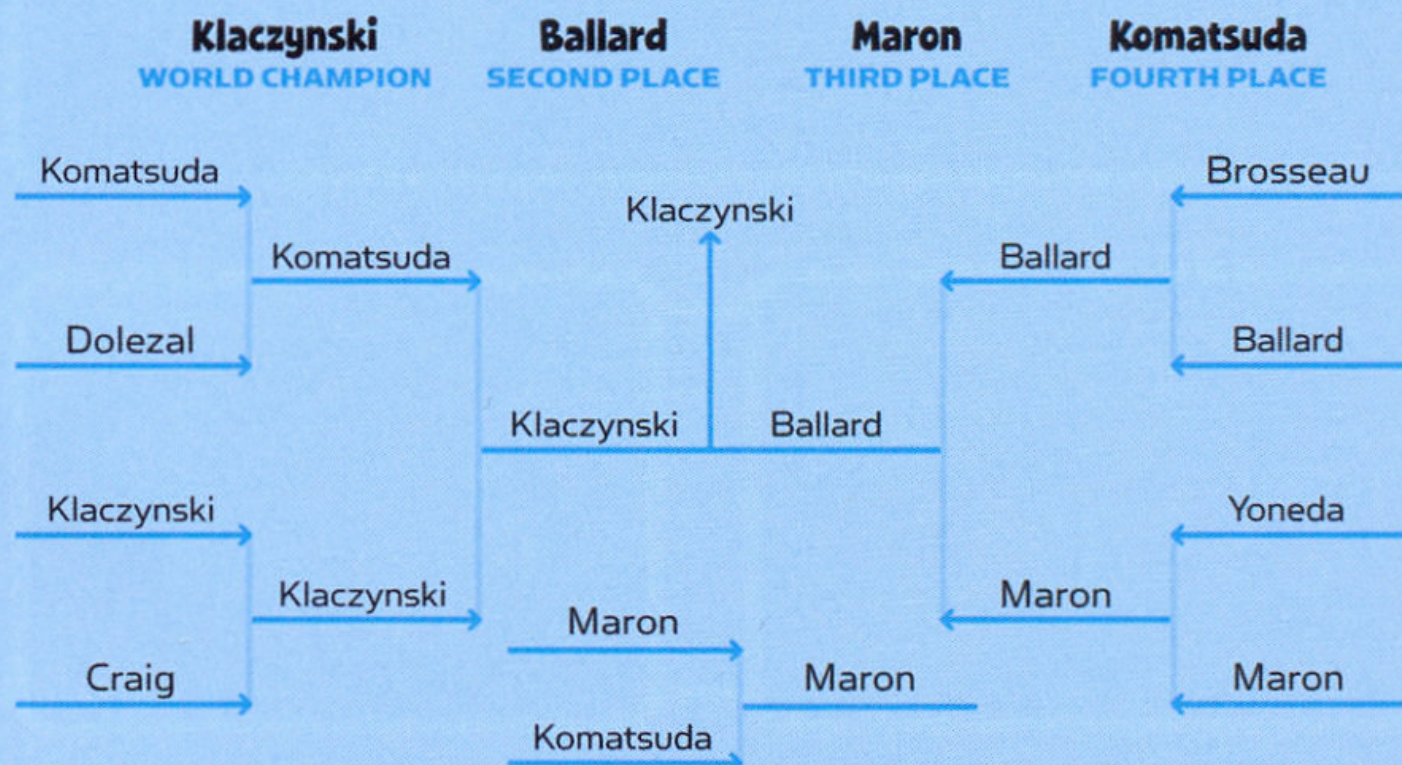
POKÉMON TCG WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS BRACKET (10-)

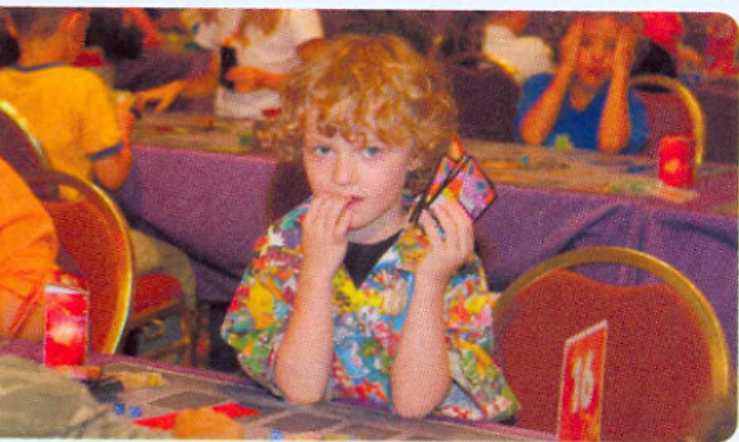


POKÉMON TCG WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS BRACKET (11-14)



POKÉMON TCG WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS BRACKET (15+)





A strategic look



Gettin' the goods



The advancing players (10-) from the Last Chance Qualifier



The Welcome Reception in full swing



The Pokémon Tango





One last chance to qualify!



The calm before the storm



The line for the restrooms? No—for the Last Chance Qualifier!



This for that—the art of the trade



Pikachu, meet Pikachu





Hiroki Yano

World Champion (10 and under)

Age: 10

Country: Japan

Deck: B-L-S

Interesting Fact: Favorite

Pokémon is Totodile from
EX Dragon Frontiers

400 games. Ten times a week for ten months, Hiroki Yano sat down to prepare his deck for the World Championships, and in the end, it paid off—his Water Pokémon prevailed to make the young man from Osaka, Japan, the new World Champion. He knows he will need to return to Hawaii next year to defend his title, and so he has one simple request: “Wish me luck!”

Deck List:

2	Lugia ex	UF	105
3	Blastoise ex	RG	104
2	Wartortle	RG	50
3	Squirtle	RG	82
1	Steelix ex	UF	109
1	Onix	TR	69
1	Latias ☆	DX	105
2	Pidgeot	RG	10
1	Pidgeotto	RG	45
2	Pidgey	RG	73
4	Plusle	DX	44
2	Holon's Electrode	DS	21
3	Holon's Magnetron	DS	22
4	Rare Candy	HP	90
2	Steven's Advice	HL	92
2	Copypcat	TR	83
3	Celio's Network	RG	88
1	Professor Elm's Training Method	UF	89
4	Rocket's Admin.	TR	86
1	Warp Point	UF	93
2	Pokémon Retriever	TR	84
3	Power Tree	LM	76
11	Water Energy		





Spencer Duncan

Second Place (10 and under)

Age: 10

Country: United States

Deck: Hawaiian Magma

Interesting Fact: Plays nearly every day

Spencer Duncan firmly subscribes to the adage that “practice makes perfect.” He spent a great deal of time working his finalist’s deck until it performed almost flawlessly. Lugia ex can do a *lot* of damage,” he notes (something his opponents already know). Spencer gives his brother credit for getting him into the game in the first place—six years ago! And as he considers how to approach the 2007 **Pokémon** TCG World Championships, he says one thing is possible and a second is certain: he might make a new deck, but he’ll definitely practice hard!

Deck List:

2	Lugia ex	UF	105
2	Blastoise ex	RG	104
1	Wartortle	RG	50
2	Squirtle	RG	83
1	Steelix ex	UF	109
1	Onix	RG	42
2	Pidgeot	RG	10
1	Pidgeotto	RG	45
2	Pidgey	RG	73
1	Jirachi	HL	8
2	Jirachi	DX	9
1	Porygon2	DS	25
1	Porygon	RG	47
3	Holon’s Electrode	DS	21
1	Holon’s Castform	HP	44
1	Ditto	DS	38
4	Holon Transceiver	DS	98
2	Pokémon Retriever	TR	84
2	Holon Mentor	DS	93
4	Rare Candy	HP	90
1	Pow! Hand Extension	TR	85
2	Switch	DS	102
1	Holon Adventurer	HP	85
4	Professor Elm’s Training Method	UF	89
3	Rocket’s Admin.	TR	86
4	Power Tree	LM	76
1	Island Cave	HL	89
8	Water Energy		





Arnoud van Bemmelen

Third Place (10 and under)

Age: 9

Country: Netherlands

Deck: Toise Power

Interesting Fact: Has played in all three World Championship events

Arnoud van Bemmelen won a game in the 2006 **Pokémon** TCG World Championships in 12 seconds—it was his most memorable play of the Worlds weekend. And coming from a family with three other players in it, it's not surprising that Arnoud plays rapid-fire with a quick deck (which he describes as "fast and easy... but unstoppable"). He's played nearly all of his life, and his third-place victory at the World Championships was the result of steady play in other premier events. "I ended high," he says of his moment in the spotlight.

Deck List:

1	Lugia ex	UF	105
2	Blastoise ex	RG	104
2	Wartortle	RG	50
2	Squirtle	RG	83
2	Steelix ex	UF	109
2	Onix	UF	65
1	Latias ☆	DX	105
2	Pidgeot	RG	10
1	Pidgeotto	RG	45
2	Pidgey	RG	73
1	Jirachi	HL	8
1	Jirachi	DX	9
2	Holon's Magneton	DS	22
3	Holon's Castform	HP	44
1	Scott	EM	84
1	Steven's Advice	HL	92
1	Ancient Technical Machine [Rock]	HL	85
1	Holon Scientist	DS	97
2	Holon Mentor	DS	93
3	Holon Transceiver	DS	98
4	Rare Candy	HP	90
2	Pokémon Retriever	TR	84
2	Switch	DS	102
4	Professor Elm's Training Method	UF	89
3	Rocket's Admin.	TR	86
3	Power Tree	LM	76
1	Giant Stump	LM	75
8	Water Energy		





Fares Sekkoum

Fourth Place (10 and under)

Age: 10

Country: United Kingdom

Deck: Flariados

Interesting Fact: Favorite Pokémon character is Meowth

"I'll remember playing with the best Pokémon players in the world," Fares Sekkoum says, of whom he is one. For two weeks prior to the World Championships, Fares tested his decks with his brothers, both of whom also participated in this year's competition. With every match that brought him closer to the final four, he found that he gained more skill and confidence and was able to better predict what he could do... or what his opponents *might* do. "I am very persistent about winning," he admits.

Deck List:

4	Flareon ex	DS	108
4	Eevee	DS	69
4	Ariados	UF	2
4	Spinarak	UF	75
4	Great Ball	DS	90
4	Professor Elm's Training Method	UF	89
4	Super Scoop Up	DS	100
2	Scott	EM	84
4	Energy Removal 2	UF	82
3	Rocket's Admin.	TR	86
4	Mary's Request	UF	86
4	Battle Frontier	EM	75
1	Full Flame	LM	74
4	Multi Energy	HP	96
7	Grass Energy		
3	Fire Energy		





Winning is about attitude



No longer lost in translation



Table 68, your battle is ready!



Eyes on the prizes



The Gaming Room after-hours





The things we do for luck



Checking the pairings!



PCL judges and players from Japan



This means, "Ask for translation!"



Eager to see the Prerelease cards





Miska Saari

World Champion (11–14)

Age: 14

Country: Finland

Deck: Suns and Moons

Interesting Fact: Eats three breakfasts every morning

Miska Saari determined the cards in his World Champion's deck during a Pokécamp with all the other Finnish players who were planning to compete in Worlds. In fact, he thinks the two preparation camps he attended were so beneficial that he plans to attend another to prepare to defend his title in 2007. And he might not be there alone. "Before Worlds, there were no other players in my family," he says, "but after my win, there will be—my little brother."

Deck List:

3	Lunatone	DX	36
1	Lunatone	LM	20
3	Solrock	DX	47
1	Solrock	LM	25
1	Girafarig	LM	16
1	Pokémon Retriever	TR	84
2	Energy Root	UF	83
1	Warp Point	UF	93
3	Pokémon Reversal	UF	88
3	Great Ball	DS	90
4	Holon Transceiver	DS	98
4	Energy Removal 2	UF	82
2	Rocket's Admin.	TR	86
2	Steven's Advice	HL	92
3	Mary's Request	UF	86
1	Holon Farmer	DS	91
1	Holon Scientist	DS	97
1	Holon Adventurer	HP	85
3	Holon Mentor	DS	93
3	Cursed Stone	LM	72
3	Desert Ruins	HL	88
3	Holon Energy FF	DS	104
4	Multi Energy	HP	96
1	Psychic Energy		
6	Fighting Energy		





David Booij

Second Place (11-14)

Age: 12

Country: Netherlands

Deck: Booij Power

Interesting Fact: Plays best under pressure

David Booij went from just collecting **Pokémon** cards to becoming one of the best players in the world by joining a league. In the four years he's been involved, he's noticed how the game evolves—"and how you make so many new friends through playing," he adds. After an exceptional amount of practice with his team members from Team Torchic, he can now do up to 110 damage for only 1 Energy. Next time, he vows, "I'll win the finals!"

Deck List:

3	Flareon ex	DS	108
1	Espeon ex	UF	102
4	Eevee	DS	69
4	Ariados	UF	2
4	Spinarak	UF	75
1	Holon's Electrode	DS	21
1	Scott	EM	84
3	Copycat	TR	83
3	Rocket's Admin.	TR	86
4	Energy Removal 2	UF	82
4	Super Scoop Up	DS	100
4	Great Ball	DS	90
4	Mary's Request	UF	86
4	Professor Elm's		
	Training Method	UF	89
4	Battle Frontier	EM	75
1	Giant Stump	LM	75
4	Multi Energy	HP	96
5	Grass Energy		
2	Fire Energy		





Tad Wheeler

Third Place (11–14)

Age: 13

Country: United States

Deck: Steel Water

Interesting Fact: His brother Ty made the top 32 this year

Tad Wheeler tried to predict the most popular decks likely to see play at this year's **Pokémon** TCG World Championships, then built his own deck with slight modifications to defeat those decks. "Slow, powerful, and *good*," he describes his deck. And clearly, it paid off—Tad achieved third place after getting into the Championships via the Last Chance Qualifier. In fact, he's played in Worlds the last three years via the "grinder." So, what about next year? "I will do everything the same," Tad says.

Deck List:

1	Lugia ex	UF	105
2	Blastoise ex	RG	104
2	Wartortle	RG	50
3	Squirtle	RG	83
2	Steelix ex	UF	109
2	Onix	UF	65
1	Latias ☆	DX	105
2	Pidgeot	RG	10
1	Pidgeotto	RG	45
2	Pidgey	RG	73
1	Blissey ex	UF	101
1	Chansey	UF	20
2	Jirachi	DX	9
2	Jirachi	HL	8
2	Holon's Magneton	DS	22
1	Holon's Magnemite	DS	70
2	Holon's Castform	HP	44
3	Rare Candy	HP	90
3	Holon Transceiver	DS	98
2	Holon Adventurer	HP	85
1	Holon Lass	DS	92
1	Holon Scientist	DS	97
2	Holon Mentor	DS	93
2	Pokémon Retriever	TR	84
2	Professor Elm's Training Method	UF	89
1	Rocket's Admin.	TR	86
1	Switch	DS	102
2	Power Tree	LM	76
2	Island Cave	HL	89
9	Water Energy		





Austin Reed

Fourth Place (11–14)

Age: 12

Country: United States

Deck: Three steps to K.O.

Interesting Fact: By his own admission, he's "goofy"

Austin Reed freely admits: "I used a joke deck." Yet he also acknowledges that Ludicolo got him all the way to fourth place at the **Pokémon** TCG World Championships. Even so, Austin hadn't played in nearly a month before bringing his "disruptive" deck to Anaheim. Despite his casual approach to competitive play, he concedes that his favorite part of the game is the same as many other players': "I like winning."

Deck List:

4	Ludicolo	DX	10
2	Lombre	DX	33
4	Lotad	DX	35
3	Magcargo	DX	20
1	Magcargo	UF	41
3	Slugma	UF	73
1	Holon's Castform	HP	44
3	Jirachi	DX	9
2	Rocket's Admin.	TR	86
2	Steven's Advice	HL	92
4	Celio's Network	RG	88
1	Holon Adventurer	HP	85
2	Holon Transceiver	DS	98
2	Holon Mentor	DS	93
1	Surprise! Time Machine	TR	91
1	Switch	DS	102
1	Pokémon Retriever	TR	84
1	Ancient Technical Machine [Rock]	HL	85
1	Warp Point	UF	93
4	Rare Candy	HP	90
4	Battle Frontier	EM	75
4	Double Rainbow Energy	EM	87
2	Heal Energy	DX	94
3	Scramble Energy	DX	95
4	Water Energy		





Bean-bag bonanza in the movie room



Meowth blends in



The stakes are high in the 10 and under battles



The Creative Wall of Fame



POP pins galore!





Which Pokémon would you choose?



All hands, to the arena!



The 2006 **Pokémon** TCG World Championships... from above



New players join the league



Chalk one up for the coffee house!





Jason Klaczynski

World Champion (15 and up)

Age: 20

Country: United States

Deck: Mewtrick

Interesting Fact: Taught himself to play using the rulebook

Jason Klaczynski has played the **Pokémon** Trading Card Game since its U.S. debut in December 1998, and now he has become one of its World Champions. Though he notes that he made two errors in Swiss, he also points out that "I made fewer mistakes than my opponents, and, in the end, that's what mattered." He also defeated a Banette ex/Medicham ex deck that he'd heard was expected to win Worlds. Buoyed by this, he fully expects that next year will be a little different: "I intend to play perfectly," he says.

Deck List:

3	Manectric ex	DX	101
4	Electrike	DX	60
4	Mew ex	LM	88
1	Deoxys ex	EM	93
1	Roselia	LM	42
1	Regirock ex	HL	98
1	Girafarig	LM	16
2	Holon's Magneton	DS	22
4	Rocket's Admin.	TR	86
3	Scott	EM	84
4	Professor Elm's Training Method	UF	89
4	TV Reporter	P2	11
1	Mary's Request	UF	86
4	Dual Ball	DS	89
2	Pow! Hand Extension	TR	85
2	Switch	DS	102
3	Battle Frontier	EM	75
1	Cursed Stone	LM	72
4	Multi Energy	HP	96
11	Lightning Energy		





Jimmy Ballard

Second Place (15 and up)

Age: 33

Country: United States

Deck: Eeveelutions

Interesting Fact: Only plays "rogue" decks

Jimmy Ballard was hooked when he pulled an Alakazam from the first pack he ever bought. Now, six years later, both he and his son (who practiced together) competed simultaneously in the **Pokémon** TCG World Championships. While his son didn't go as far as he did, Jimmy made an impressive showing with a deck that was far from being an archetypical one. But more important, the time the two of them spent together "really bonded us as a family," Jimmy says.

Deck List:

2	Flareon ex	DS	108
2	Umbreon ex	UF	112
2	Espeon ex	UF	102
1	Vaporeon ex	DS	110
1	Jolteon ex	DS	109
4	Eevee	DS	69
3	Pidgeot	RG	10
2	Pidgeotto	RG	45
3	Pidgey	RG	73
2	Holon's Electrode	DS	21
4	Surprise! Time Machine	TR	91
3	Rocket's Admin.	TR	86
3	Rare Candy	HP	90
2	Professor Elm's		
	Training Method	UF	89
2	Celio's Network	RG	88
2	Bill's Maintenance	RG	87
1	Pokémon Retriever	TR	84
2	Strength Charm	DX	92
1	Copypcat	TR	83
1	Steven's Advice	HL	92
1	Ancient Technical		
	Machine [Rock]	HL	85
2	Giant Stump	LM	75
2	Full Flame	LM	74
2	Holon Energy FF	DS	104
3	Holon Energy WP	DS	106
3	Fire Energy		
4	Water Energy		





Jeremy Maron

Third Place (15 and up)

Age: 20

Country: United States

Deck: Queendoom

Interesting Fact: Was in the top 4 at Worlds two years in a row, 2005 World Champion

Playing on the Internet to perfect his deck convinced Jeremy Maron that his deck—which was the same deck as the one that made him World Champion last year—could make another solid showing this year. He rotated out Milotic, rotated in Houndoom, and the rest is World Championships history. Yet he credits his advancement this year to a completely different Pokémon: Pidgey. “Without Pidgey’s Corner attack, I would’ve lost in the top 16,” he says. He is certain that with more practice, he’ll do even better at next year’s Championships.

Deck List:

4	Nidoran ♀	RG	70
3	Nidorina	RG	40
4	Nidoqueen	RG	9
3	Pidgey	RG	73
2	Pidgeotto	RG	45
3	Pidgeot	RG	10
1	Pidgeot	HP	14
1	Houndour	TR	59
1	Houndoom	UF	7
1	Holon’s Electrode	DS	21
4	Rare Candy	HP	90
4	Celio’s Network	RG	88
3	Copycat	TR	83
2	Steven’s Advice	HL	92
2	Rocket’s Admin.	TR	86
2	Holon Mentor	DS	93
1	Holon Scientist	DS	97
1	Holon Transceiver	DS	98
1	Scott	EM	84
2	Space Center	DX	91
4	Double Rainbow Energy	EM	87
2	Heal Energy	DX	94
4	Holon Energy GL	DS	105
1	Warp Energy	UF	100
4	Grass Energy		





Yuta Komatsuda

Fourth Place (15 and up)

Age: 16

Country: Japan

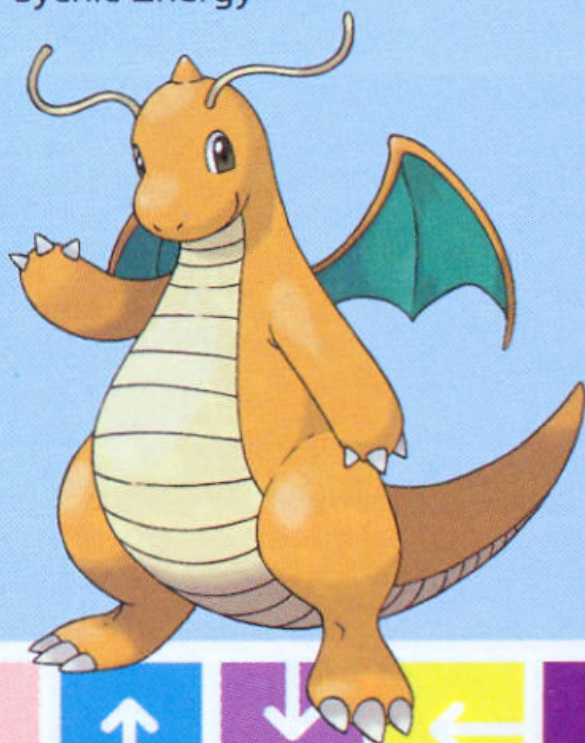
Deck: Meta Nite

Interesting Fact: Achieved notable success in the Mathematics Olympics

Yuta Komatsuda was gratified that the Pokémon Card Laboratory experts were on hand during the World Championships. "They were very kind and close to me," Yuta says, and they were quietly supportive of him as he competed in the final four in Anaheim. His deck used Metagross and Dragonite to collect Energy for a devastating attack, a fast combo that he found to be very effective.

Deck List:

3	Dragonite	DS	3
1	Dragonair	DS	42
3	Dratini	DS	66
3	Metagross	DS	11
1	Metagross	DX	11
3	Metang	HL	44
4	Beldum	HL	29
2	Jirachi	DX	9
1	Rocket's Admin.	TR	86
2	Copycat	TR	83
2	Steven's Advice	HL	92
4	Celio's Network	RG	88
4	Rare Candy	HP	90
4	Pokémon Reversal	UF	88
2	Pokémon Retriever	TR	84
1	Warp Point	UF	93
1	Switch	DS	102
4	Holon Ruins	DS	96
4	Metal Energy	HP	95
10	Lightning Energy		
1	Psychic Energy		





Storing the top 32 decks



Congratulating a new Champion



In the money and on the stage: the big winners!



Saari vs. Booij for the title



From Plusle to Minun!





Hats off to Pokémon!



Reed vs. Wheeler



The staff for 2006—on to 2007!



The coveted crystal trophies



Lights out in the battle ballroom



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Special Thanks To: Tsunekaz Ishihara, Takumi Akabane, Masakazu Fukuda, Kagemaru Himeno, Creatures Staff, PokémonCenter.Com Staff, PCL Staff, TPC Staff, Sitelines Productions, Inc., Hilton Anaheim Staff, Naoya Hattori, Rick Achberger, Kellyn Ballard, Dave Golenor, Thomas Hertzog, Kim Ruehl, Tracey West, and all of the volunteers who gave their time to help us make this a successful event!



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Special Thanks To: PUI Seattle, PUI NY, The Pokémon Company, and
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